

# Claims

- [c1] 1.A method of determining a merging bit, the method comprising:
- (a)appending one bit to a fourteen-bit set of data output from an eight-to-fourteen modulator to make a fifteen-bit set of data;
  - (b)dividing the fifteen-bit set of data into five local digital-sum-values of three bits;
  - (c)adding the five local digital-sum-values to an initial digital-sum-value to generate a sub-digital-sum-value; and
  - (d)generating the merging bit according to the sub-digital-sum-value and a predetermined value.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
generating the initial digital-sum-value by adding the local digital-sum-value corresponding to the former merging bit to the former sub-digital-sum-value.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further comprises:  
corresponding the three bits and an initial non-return-to-zero of the three bits to a first table for generating the local digital-sum-value.

- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) further comprises:  
corresponding the sub-digital-sum-value and the pre-determined value to a second table for generating the merging bit.
- [c5] 5. A device for carrying out the method of claim 1.